Reviewer's report

Title: Reproductive factors and its association with intima media thickness and carotid plaques in a cross sectional study of postmenopausal women enrolled in the population-based KORA F4 study

Version: 4 Date: 1 December 2013

Reviewer: Samar El Khoudary

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the authors for being responsive to the reviewer’s comments. The manuscript has considerably improved. Few comments and questions still need more clarification:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Methods, Subjects: Should the total number for those who were eligible for F4 be 3866 instead of 3867? Subtracting all exclusions did not result in 3080.
2. Table 1: Please be consistent in what was presented for categorical variables. Both n and % were provided for the “total” column. Only % was provided for the other two columns (presence or absence of plaque).
3. Did the authors tested for interaction between current use of HT and time since menopause? Although each of these two variables were not significantly related to the outcome, this did not imply that the interaction is also not significant.
4. Please justify why total cholesterol and TG, which would be expected to be highly correlated, were included simultaneously? What about LDL-C and HDL-C? Also please provide methods for each of these measures.
5. In statistical section, please provide details about including the new measures in multivariable analysis.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests